



APR 7 2000



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL
OF THE STATES
444 North Capitol Street, N.W. Suite 445
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

Dear Workshop Participants :

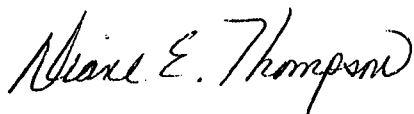
We are pleased to submit to you the Report of the 1999 ECOS-EPA National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS) Workshop held in Baltimore, Maryland, November 30 through December 2, which involved 160 representatives from 26 States, 9 EPA Regions and EPA Headquarters. This report provides a detailed summary of the presentations and small group work that occurred. As you know, this Workshop was specifically designed to identify the most critical barriers to successful performance partnerships and to develop action plans to resolve those issues, with the goal of making NEPPS more effective and constructive.

In our opening remarks at the Workshop, we challenged you to create a road map for improving NEPPS. We also promised that we would take your efforts to the highest levels within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) for follow through. It was clear throughout the workshop that you took our challenge seriously; this workshop report confirms that.

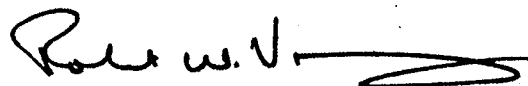
We also are meeting our commitment to you. Since the Workshop, senior managers at EPA have reviewed your ideas for improvements in the areas of culture change, information management, and joint planning, and endorsed activities to implement them within the Agency. Recently, Deputy Administrator Michael McCabe reaffirmed the Agency's commitment to NEPPS by directing Agency managers to work even harder to ensure that all Agency staff understand the importance of NEPPS to fulfilling EPA's Mission, and that staff have the necessary resources, including training, to realize the promise in performance partnerships. We also have addressed to senior management in the Agency a crosswalk of GPRA Annual Performance Measures (APMs) and NEPPS Core Performance Measures (CPMs) that clearly demonstrates that practically all CPMs and corresponding APMs are derived from the same data element(s) and data base(s). We are working hard on additional efforts to address the issues raised at the Workshop including training and other materials to better equip our employees to perform their jobs applying the principles of NEPPS.

The States also have stepped up to the plate as a result of the NEPPS workshop. ECOS, with a recommendation from the Strategic Planning Committee, will soon consider a resolution reaffirming the States' commitment to NEPPS at its upcoming Spring meeting in Philadelphia. As a result of State and EPA discussions, a subcommittee of the ECOS Strategic Planning Committee already has been created to ensure ongoing attention to NEPPS and its continuous improvement. In addition, the Strategic Planning Committee has agreed to serve as home to the newly-formed, State-driven environmental results management systems initiative. This ad hoc group of eight to ten States, assisted by the Green Mountain Institute for Environmental Democracy, was created for the purpose of crafting a field guide which will help interested States develop effective environmental results management systems.

We anticipate that many more results-based activities will take place this year. More importantly perhaps, we ask for your continued involvement in these efforts. Together, we can improve our partnerships and better enable all of us to accomplish the good work of protecting public health and the environment.



Diane E. Thompson
Associate Administrator for
Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Robert W. Varney
ECOS Executive Board as Past
President
Commissioner
New Hampshire Department of
Environmental Services

Enclosure